(c) if so, whether the public sector undertakings under his Ministry would be affected adversely; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to face the financial crunch?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Net Budgetary Support (NBS) for the power Sector has been increasing. NBS (BE) for the last three years is as under :—

(Rs. in Crores)

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1804.18	1974.73	2086.99

(c) and (d) In view of the above, questions do not arise.

Scientific Method of Interrogation

*734. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to introduce more scientific method for interrogation of suspects by the police;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, in what way Government plan to completely avoid death in police custody?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) "Public Order" and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Interrogation of suspects involved in crimes is part of investigation.

Government of India has been providing financial assistance under the scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces to State Governments to enable them to procure Scientific equipments which will help in the interrogation of suspects by the Police. Such gadgets as the lie-detector, etc., are now available with State Police Forces to help in scientific interrogation. Forensic Laboratories are also being set up in all States to facilitate use of scientific methods.

Moreover, the Government of India has been sending advisories to the State Governments, from time to time, to the effect that their police personnel

should conduct themselves in a humane manner and that cases of police excesses should be taken serious note of and dealt with promptly and firmly. In order to avoid harassment in terrogation, special emphasis is being laid on human rights in the training curricula of police personnel at all levels. 'induction' and 'in-service' training programmes also include special inputs to sensitise police personnel about the use of scientific methods for investigation.

Restructuring of State Electricity Boards

*735 SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of issuing guidelines to State Governments to restructure their State Eectricity Boards with a view to achieving higher production targets and ensuring better distribution system so that industry and domestic consumers do not face long power cuts as at present;

(b) if so, by when these guidelines would be issued; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The problems facing the power sector were discussed in the conference of Power Ministers' held on 26.2.2000 and it was resolved that with the intention of achieving commercial viability and providing power at reasonable rate to all, reform must be unertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the reform strategy as evolved in the Power Minister's Conference are:—

i. Energy Audit at all levels.

ii. Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.

iii. Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified period.

iv. Strengthening / upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a unit on priority basis.

If the above appears unattainable in the existing set up, corporatisation/ co-operatisation / privatisation of distribution would have to be undertaken.